

What is claimed is:

1. A data processing method comprising:  
storing a plurality of records each having a plurality of fields in a first storage area;  
storing a field value in a second storage area;  
storing a pointer to said second storage area storing said field value in at least one of said fields; and  
sorting said records by using at least one of said pointer to determine sorting order among said records.
2. The data processing method according to claim 1, wherein the field value stored in the second storage area indicated by said pointer is compared immediately before the pointer in determining sorting order among said records.
3. The data processing method according to claim 1, wherein a retrieval operation is performed on said sorted records by using the pointer to the second storage area storing the field value as one of searching keys.
4. The data processing method according to claim 3, wherein said retrieval operation is a binary search performed on said sorted records.
5. The data processing method according to claim 3, wherein the field value stored in the second storage area indicated by said pointer is compared immediately before the pointer in determining sorting order among said records.
6. A computer readable recording medium storing a program code for managing data items, said program comprising:  
program code configured to store a plurality of records each having a plurality of fields in a first storage area;  
program code configured to store a field value in a second storage area;  
program code configured to store a pointer to said

second storage area storing said field value in at least one of said fields; and

program code configured to sort said records by using at least one of said pointer to determine sorting order among said records.

7. The computer readable recording medium according to claim 6, wherein the field value stored in the second storage area indicated by said pointer is compared immediately before the pointer in determining sorting order among said records.

8. The computer readable recording medium according to claim 6, wherein a retrieval operation is performed on said sorted records by using the pointer to the second storage area storing the field value as one of searching keys.

9. The computer readable recording medium according to claim 8, wherein said retrieval operation is a binary search performed on said sorted records.

10. The computer readable recording medium according to claim 8, wherein the field value stored in the second storage area indicated by said pointer is compared immediately before the pointer in determining sorting order among said records.

11. A data processing device comprising:  
a data input section configured to input a field value;  
a data storing section; and  
a data processing control section configured to control storing a plurality of records each having a plurality of fields in a first storage area of the data storing section; storing a field value in a second storage area of the data storing section; storing a pointer to said second storage area storing said field value in at least one of said fields; and sorting said records by using at least one of said pointer to determine sorting order among said records.

12. The data processing device according to claim 11, wherein the field value stored in the second storage area indicated by said pointer is compared immediately before the pointer in determining sorting order among said records.

13. The data processing device according to claim 11, wherein said data processing control section performs a retrieval operation by using the pointer to the second storage area storing the field value as one of searching keys.

14. The data processing device according to claim 13, wherein said retrieval operation performed by said data processing control section is a binary search performed on said sorted records.

15. The data processing device according to claim 13, wherein the field value stored in the second storage area indicated by said pointer is compared immediately before the pointer in determining sorting order among said records.